



Legislative Department Memorandum

Date: July 21, 2011

To: City of Seattle Councilmembers and Staff

From: Councilmembers Mike O'Brien and Nick Licata

Subject: Lake City

Colleagues:

We attended a community forum on the consideration of turning Fire Station 29 into a shelter at the Lake City Community Center on July 13. In May, some Councilmembers and the Mayor voiced their intentions to move forward on a proposal to continue to provide temporary shelter at the Lake City Fire Station. We heard a considerable amount of opposition at this meeting, and are aware that the neighbors to the Fire Station are concerned about their safety and accountability.

There are still many pending considerations – for example, the final cost of such a proposal and what the community would be expecting from the organization managing the shelter. There are also critiques that Lake City serves more than its fair share of homeless and/or low income people. We have attached some documents that will hopefully give you a better idea of dispersal of human services.

In conversations with Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith we have discussed the public safety concerns communicated by the residents of Lake City and we are looking forward to addressing these concerns. We are committed to having more substantive conversations on the topic and intend to be thoughtful about how we approach this project. It is a large expenditure and it needs to be approved by the Council. We do not expect such an approval until multiple hearings have taken place and until we have fully vetted the concerns of the community.

We hope you will remain engaged in this project and the process as we move forward. It is incumbent upon us to be representative of a broad range of opinions, and also to help those in need when the opportunity is before us.

Councilmember Nick Licata

Councilmember Mike O'Brien